GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MICRO,SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5858
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
National Flag Weavers
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of MICRO,SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission reportedly paying a meager amount to the weavers of our National Flag and earning between Rs.1500/- to Rs.3000 per month and also not getting their payment in time and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the number of weavers of our National Flag has drastically come down and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the payment of national flag weavers to improve their income and save them from poverty and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a): No, Madam. The weavers are paid on the basis of wages per metre of cloth woven. A weaver earns on an average between Rs.250 to Rs. 280 per day. In addition to their wages which are paid by the Khadi Institutions, the Central Govt. provides 30% Modified Market Development Assistance as additional incentive through their Bank and Post Office accounts. The payment of Modified Market Development Assistance to the Spinners and Weavers is made directly into their Bank / Post Office accounts after the claim is received from the Institutions.

(b): The weavers who weave cloth can also weave cloth for national flag. The national flag is made from cotton Khadi. As per information available, the number of cotton Khadi weavers has not reduced which can be seen from the table below:
<pre>
Year Total No. of Weavers No. of Cotton Khadi weavers
2014-15 1.42 lakh persons 0.79 lakh persons
2015-16 1.42 lakh persons 0.79 lakh persons
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(c): Yes, Madam, wages of weaver is increased time to time. Additional incentive of 30% out of Modified Market Development Assistance is also paid to artisans (Spinners and Weavers) through D.B.T. into their Bank accounts as mentioned at (a) above.